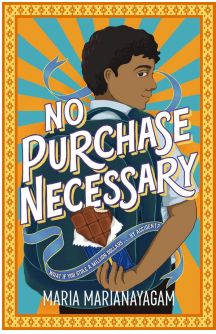


Entering 7th Grade NMS Summer Reading: 2025

During the summer, incoming 7th Graders will read two books.



All 7th Grade Students Are Required To Read:

No Purchase Necessary by Maria Marianayagam

Complete [this assignment](#) while reading the book over the summer.

Printed packets were distributed to students on step-up day.

Choice Read:

Students must read one additional book from this list below.

Students should be prepared to complete a project during the first week of school.



Akata Witch by Nnedi Okorafor -- Sunny discovers she has magic powers but needs a crash course in spells and juju to help her friends stop a killer, who has abilities much stronger than theirs.



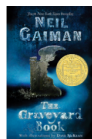
The Blackthorn Key by Kevin Sands -- Following a series of murders, an apothecary's apprentice must solve puzzles and decipher codes in pursuit of a secret that could destroy the world. When a mysterious cult begins to prey on London's apothecaries, the trail of murders grows closer and closer to Blackthorn's shop. With time running out, Christopher must use every skill he's learned to discover the key to a terrible secret with the power to tear the world apart.



Coyote Lost and Found by Dan Gemeinhart- It's been almost a year since Coyote and her dad left the road behind and settled down in a small Oregon town. . . time spent grieving the loss of her mom and sisters and trying to fit in at school. But just as life is becoming a new version of normal, Coyote discovers a box containing her mom's ashes. And she thinks she might finally be ready to say goodbye. So Coyote and her dad gear up for an epic cross-country road trip to scatter the ashes at her mom's chosen resting place. The only problem? Coyote has no idea where that resting place is—and the secret's hidden in a book that Coyote mistakenly sold last year, *somewhere* in the country. Now, it's up to Coyote to track down the treasured book . . . without her dad ever finding out that it's lost. ** This book is the sequel to *The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise*.



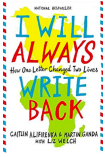
Fallout: Spies, Superbombs, and the Ultimate Cold War Showdown by Steve Sheinkin- As World War II comes to a close, the United States and the Soviet Union emerge as the two greatest world powers on extreme opposites of the political spectrum. After the United States showed its hand with the atomic bomb in Hiroshima, the Soviets refuse to be left behind. With communism sweeping the globe, the two nations begin a neck-and-neck competition to build even more destructive bombs and conquer the Space Race. In their battle for dominance, spy planes fly above, armed submarines swim deep below, and undercover agents meet in the dead of night. The Cold War game grows more precarious as weapons are pointed towards each other, with fingers literally on the trigger. The decades-long showdown culminates in the Cuban Missile Crisis, the world's close call with the third—and final—world war.



The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman -- Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a perfectly normal boy. Well, he would be perfectly normal if he didn't live in a graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts, with a solitary guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor the world of the dead. There are dangers and adventures for Bod in the graveyard: the strange and terrible menace of the Sleer; a gravestone entrance to a desert that leads to the city of ghouls; friendship with a witch, and so much more.



House Arrest by K.A. Holt -- Timothy is on probation. It's a strange word—something that happens to other kids, to delinquents, not to kids like him. And yet, he is under house arrest for the next year. He must check in weekly with a probation officer and a therapist, and keep a journal for an entire year. When he must take drastic measures to help his struggling family, staying out of trouble proves more difficult than Timothy ever thought it would be. How can he find redemption as he navigates life with a sick brother, a grieving mother, and one tough probation officer?



I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives by Caitlin Alfrienka, Marta Ganda & Liz Welch -- Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place. Martin was lucky to even receive a pen-pal letter. That letter was the beginning of a correspondence that spanned six years and changed two lives. In this compelling dual memoir, Caitlin and Martin recount how they became best friends, and better people through their long-distance exchange. Their story will inspire you to look beyond your own life and wonder about the world at large and your place in it.



Kate in Between by Claire Swinarski- Kate McAllister is desperate for a change. Something to hit refresh and erase the pain of her mother leaving town without her. So when a group of popular girls folds Kate into their clique, it feels like the answer to all her problems—even if it means ditching Haddie, her childhood bestie. But when Kate's new friends decide that Haddie is their next target, Kate becomes a passive participant in a cruel incident that could have killed Haddie...had Kate not stepped in, at the last minute, and saved her. The next day, a cell phone video of the rescue goes viral, and Kate is hailed a hero. But Kate knows the truth—she was part of the problem—and it's only a matter of time until the full version of the video is released and everyone knows it too. With so much at stake, Kate must decide who she wants to be: a liar, a follower, or someone greater.



Leviathan by Scott Westerfeld -- In an alternate 1914 Europe, 15-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, running from the Clanker Powers who are trying to take over the globe, forms an alliance with Deryn, who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly.



Lights, Camera, Disaster by Erin Dionne -- Hester Greene loves making movies. With her camera in hand, she can focus, make decisions, and have the control she lacks in life, where her executive function disorder sabotages her every move. But middle school is not a movie, and if her last-ditch attempt to save her language-arts grade doesn't work, Hess could lose her friends, her year, even her camera. By thinking outside the frame, she just might craft a whole new ending. Written partially in script form, with STOP/PAUSE/PLAY/REWIND moments throughout, this story will speak to any budding filmmaker, or unintentional troublemaker, in every act of their lives.



The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd -- Ted and Kat watched their cousin Salim board the London Eye, but after half an hour it landed and everyone trooped off—except Salim. Where could he have gone? How on earth could he have disappeared into thin air? Ted and his older sister, Kat, become sleuthing partners, since the police are having no luck. Despite their prickly relationship, they overcome their differences to follow a trail of clues across London in a desperate bid to find their cousin. And ultimately it comes down to Ted, whose brain works in its own very unique way, to find the key to the mystery.



Lost in the Pacific, 1942: Not a Drop to Drink by Tod Olson- *LOST IN THE PACIFIC* is the first book in a nonfiction series that tells the true story of a band of World War II soldiers who became stranded at sea and had to fight for survival... October 21, 1942. A B-17 bomber drones high over the Pacific Ocean, sending a desperate SOS into the air. The crew is carrying America's greatest living war hero on a secret mission deep into the battle zone. But the plane is lost, burning through its final gallons of fuel. At 1:30 p.m., there is only one choice left: an emergency landing at sea. If the crew survives the impact, they will be left stranded without food or water hundreds of miles from civilization. Eight men. Three inflatable rafts. Sixty-eight million square miles of ocean. What will it take to make it back alive?



Maybe He Just Likes You by Barbara Dee -- For seventh grader Mila, it starts with an unwanted hug on the school blacktop. The next day, it's another hug. A smirk. Comments. It all feels...weird. According to her friend Zara, Mila is being immature, overreacting. Doesn't she know what flirting looks like? But it keeps happening, despite Mila's protests. On the bus, in the halls. Even during band practice--the one time Mila could always escape to her "blue-sky" feeling. It seems like the boys are EVERYWHERE. And it doesn't feel like flirting--so what is it? Mila starts to gain confidence when she enrolls in karate class. But her friends still don't understand why Mila is making such a big deal about the boys' attention. When Mila is finally pushed too far, she realizes she can't battle this on her own--and finds help in some unexpected places.



Not If I Save You First by Ally Carter -- Maddie thought she and Logan would be friends forever. But when your dad is a Secret Service agent and your best friend is the president's son, sometimes life has other plans. Before she knows it, Maddie's dad is dragging her to a cabin in the middle of the Alaskan wilderness. All is fine until Logan shows up six years later and Maddie wants to kill him. But before that can happen, an assailant appears out of nowhere, knocking Maddie off a cliff and dragging Logan to some unknown fate. Maddie still really wants to kill Logan. But she has to save him first.



Paradise on Fire by Jewell Parker Rhodes-- Addy is haunted by the tragic fire that killed her parents, leaving her to be raised by her grandmother. Years later, Addy's grandmother has enrolled her in a summer wilderness program. There, Addy joins five other Black city kids--each with their own troubles--to spend a summer out west. Deep in the forest the kids learn new (and to them) strange skills: camping, hiking, rock climbing, and how to start and safely put out campfires. Most importantly, they learn to depend upon each other for companionship



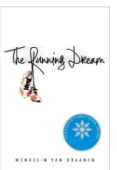
Pax by Sara Pennypacker--Pax is a heartwarming story about a boy named Peter and his pet fox, Pax. Peter rescued Pax as a baby, and they have been best friends ever since. But when Peter's father goes off to war, Peter is forced to release Pax into the wild and go live with his strict grandfather. Separated for the first time, both Peter and Pax struggle to survive on their own. As Peter embarks on a dangerous journey to find Pax, Pax must learn how to live in the wild without his boy. Told from both their perspectives, Pax is a touching story about love, loyalty, and finding where you truly belong.



Real by Carol Cujec-- *My name is Charity. I am thirteen years old. Actually, thirteen years plus eighty-seven days. I love sour gummies and pepperoni pizza. That last part no one knows because I have not spoken a sentence since I was born. Each dawning day, I live in terror of my unpredictable body that no one understands...* Charity may have mad math skills and a near-perfect memory, but with a mouth that can't speak and a body that jumps, rocks, and howls unpredictably, most people incorrectly assume she cannot learn. Charity's brain works differently from most people's because of her autism, but she's still funny, determined, and kind. So why do people treat her like a disease or ignore her like she's invisible?



Rebound by Kwame Alexander -- Before Josh and Jordan Bell were streaking up and down the court, their father was learning his own moves. In this prequel to Newbery Medal winner *The Crossover*, Chuck Bell takes center stage, as readers get a glimpse of his childhood and during one pivotal summer when young Charlie is sent to stay with his grandparents where he discovers basketball and learns more about his family's past.



The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen -- Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She is not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Who cares about walking when you can't run? She struggles to cope with crutches and a first cyborg-like prosthetic, Jessica feels oddly both in the spotlight and invisible. People who don't know what to say, act like she's not there. Which she could handle better if she weren't not keenly aware that she'd done the same thing herself to a girl with CP named Rosa. A girl who is going to tutor her through all the math she's missed. A girl who sees right into the heart of her. With the support of family, friends, a coach, and her track teammates, Jessica may actually be able to run again. But that's not enough for her now. She doesn't just want to cross finish lines herself--she wants to take Rosa with her.



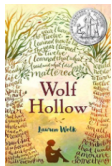
The Strangers by Margaret Peterson Haddix- The Greystone kids thought they knew. Chess has always been the protector over his younger siblings, Emma loves math, and Finn does what Finn does best—acting silly and being adored. They’ve been a happy family, just the three of them and their mom. But everything changes when reports of three kidnapped children reach the Greystone kids, and they’re shocked by the startling similarities between themselves and these complete strangers. The other kids share their same first and middle names. They’re the same age. They even have identical birthdays. Who, exactly, are these strangers?



The Swifts: A Dictionary of Scoundrels by Beth Lincoln and Claire Powell- On the day they are born, every Swift child is brought before the sacred Family Dictionary. They are given a name, and a definition. A definition it is assumed they will grow up to match. Meet Shenanigan Swift: Little sister. Risk-taker. Mischief-maker. Shenanigan is getting ready for the big Swift Family Reunion and plotting her next great scheme: hunting for Grand-Uncle Vile's long-lost treasure. She's excited to finally meet her arriving relatives -- until one of them gives Arch-Aunt Schadenfreude a deadly shove down the stairs. So what if everyone thinks she'll never be more than a troublemaker, just because of her name? Shenanigan knows she can become whatever she wants, even a detective. And she's determined to follow the twisty clues and catch the killer.



We Own the Sky by Rodman Philbrick- Maine, 1924. Davy and Jo Michaud have been recently orphaned. Taken in by a distant relative—a famous aviator—they are now working with a group of stunt pilots who spend their time wing walking, leaping from plane to plane, and flying through fireworks! But though the stunts are dangerous, the real threat is building behind the scenes. The KKK is on the rise in Maine that summer, inspired by the racial fears promoted in Birth of a Nation. They spew hatred of immigrants, Blacks, Jews, and French Catholics—that last, a rage that will be directed at Davy and Jo. When Davy and Jo cross paths with the Klan, they get tangled up in a terrible revenge plan, and held as hostages. Can they escape with their lives?



Wolf Hollow by Lauren Wolk -- Growing up in the shadows cast by two world wars, Annabelle has lived a mostly quiet, steady life in her small Pennsylvania town. Until the day new student Betty Glengarry walks into her class. Betty quickly reveals herself to be cruel and manipulative, and while her bullying seems isolated at first, things quickly escalate, and reclusive World War I veteran Toby becomes a target of her attacks. While others have always seen Toby's strangeness, Annabelle knows only kindness. She will soon need to find the courage to stand as a lone voice of justice as tensions mount.



The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin -- A bizarre chain of events begins when sixteen unlikely people gather for the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. And though no one knows why the eccentric, game-loving millionaire has chosen a virtual stranger—and a possible murderer—to inherit his vast fortune, on things for sure: Sam Westing may be dead...but that won't stop him from playing one last game!



What Happened to Rachel Riley? by Claire Swinarski- Anna Hunt may be the new girl at East Middle School, but she can already tell there's something off about her eighth-grade class. Rachel Riley, who just last year was one of the most popular girls in school, has become a social outcast. But no one, including Rachel Riley herself, will tell Anna why. As a die-hard podcast enthusiast, Anna knows there's always more to a story than meets the eye. So she decides to put her fact-seeking skills to the test and create her own podcast around the question that won't stop running through her head: What happened to Rachel Riley?



The Whydah: A Pirate Ship Feared, Wrecked and Found by Martin W. Sandler- The 1650s to the 1730s marked the golden age of piracy, when fearsome pirates like Blackbeard ruled the waves, seeking not only treasure but also large and fast ships to carry it. The Whydah was just such a ship, built to ply the Triangular Trade route, which it did until one of the greediest pirates of all, Black Sam Bellamy, commandeered it. Filling the ship to capacity with treasure, Bellamy hoped to retire with his bounty — but in 1717 the ship sank in a storm off Cape Cod. For more than two hundred years, the wreck of the Whydah (and the riches that went down with it) eluded treasure seekers, until the ship was finally found in 1984 by marine archaeologists. The artifacts brought up from the ocean floor are priceless, both in value and in the picture they reveal of life in that much-mythologized era, changing much of what we know about pirates.